ORIGIN/ACTION

NEA-5

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
	5	
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
	1	
L	EBG	AID
	3/P	USHALL-(21)
S/S	H	G
27	1	1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
		4
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
5	10	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
15		3
		NSC
		6

Action noted
T/S Hoxton 12/4
RM/R-file
12-4-63

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

(45) 213

POL 14 GREECE

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A-467 NO.

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State 1963 NOV 2 PM 1 31

INFO : Belgrade, Sofia, Moscow, Ankara, Thessaloniki

RECORDS ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy ATHENS

DATE: October 30, 1963

SUBJECT : Macedonia and the Greek Electoral Campaign

REF : Embtel 570

While Prime Minister Mavromichalis has tried to lessen the possibility of Macedonia becoming an electoral campaign issue which might damage Greek external relations, his efforts were dampened at the height of the electoral campaign by publication in some pro-Center Union newspapers of interviews obtained last summer in the United States by Greek journalist E. Demetracopoulos and in which Senator Goldwater and retired Admiral Arleigh Burke expressed concern over Yugoslav and Bulgarian designs against Greek Macedonia. On the other hand, in campaign speeches politicians seem to have heeded the Prime Minister's reported request that they avoid raising Macedonia, in that they have not referred to Yugoslav and Bulgarian threats against Greek territory. While disappointed over the Demetracopoulos' interviews, the Yugoslav Embassy seems to appreciate the Prime Minister's efforts to prevent the Electoral campaign from damaging Greek external relations and has indicated to us that it has recommended that Belgrade avoid official public rejoinder to the Demetracopoulos' interviews and/or Greek reaction to them. No Bulgarian reaction to the interviews has been noted here.

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The telegram under reference reported that Prime Minister Mavromichalis, after the appearance in To Vima (pro-Center Union) on October 6 of an article by Center Union (CU) politician E. Venizelos, applauding the postponement of Greek-Bulgarian talks and entitled "Perils of and Responsibilities for Macedonia", called together members of the press on the evening of October 9 and told them that stress on

Group 3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals, not automatically declassified

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FORM DS-323 4-62

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In Out

Drafted by: POL:CWilson,Jr:mb

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Clearances:

Greek-Bulgarian relations was not in the best interests of Greece.

[redacted]

Initially, the Prime Minister's appeal appeared to have some effect with the press, but the publication on October 13 and 17 respectively by certain pro-CU newspapers of Greek journalist Elias Demetracopoulos' interviews last summer with Senator Goldwater (Embtel 592) and retired Admiral Arleigh Burke (Embtel 607) raised the subject again [redacted] the pro-CU press seized on these views to imply mishandling of foreign affairs by the Caramanlis Government; [redacted] The subject remained prominent when on October 23, Eleftheria (pro-CU) and Acropolis (pro-ERE) reported reaction in Belgrade's Politika (Belgrade T-844) to implications in the Goldwater interview that Yugoslavia is threatening Greek territorial integrity. In this connection, the Athens newspapers quoted an Agence France Presse report, datelined Belgrade, which said that Politika had criticized Eleftheria and the Athens Daily Post for putting misleading questions to Senator Goldwater and expressed regret that the Senator's allegations known to be "unreasonable" in Greece, had found their way into the Greek press. No Bulgarian reaction to the interviews has been noted here.

Then, on October 25, virtually the entire Greek press gave prominence to the October 24 press conference in New York of Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Popovic in which he said that Yugoslavia has no territorial aspirations in the Balkans. The effect of this was countered somewhat by the publication in Kathimerini (independent-conservative) October 26 of a further statement by Senator Goldwater in which he sought to set the record straight with regard to efforts by elements of the pro-CU press to misinterpret and distort certain views he had expressed in his interview with Demetracopoulos (Deptel 449; Embtel 650). [redacted]

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While the effect of the Prime Minister's appeal of October 9 was dampened by the publication at the height of the electoral campaign of the Demetracopoulos' interviews, Greek politicians, with the exception of Venizelos, appear so far to have heeded the Prime Minister's request and have avoided treatment of ~~the~~ Macedonia in ways which might damage the relations of Greece with Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. This is not to say, however, that ERE leader Caramanlis and other nationalist politicians have not reminded the electorate of the statement attributed to EDA (extreme left) leader Manolis Glezos during a July 30, 1963 Moscow press conference that he hoped "tripartite Balkan negotiations would allow, at a given moment, establishment of an autonomous Macedonian entitity" (Embtel 210). EDA spokesmen, for their part, have sought to counter this by saying that Glezos was misquoted as part of a "plot and intrigue" to discredit EDA and have stressed their support for the view that there is no Macedonian question.

For its part, the Yugoslav Embassy has expressed disappointment to us that Macedonia was raised in the Demetracopoulos' interviews (Athens A-441), but at the same time it indicated that it was recommending that Belgrade avoid official public rejoinder to the interviews and/or Greek reaction to them. The Yugoslav Embassy seems to appreciate Prime Minister Mavromichalis' efforts to prevent the heat of the electoral campaign from damaging Greek-Yugoslav relations.

For the Ambassador

H. Daniel Brewster

H. Daniel Brewster
Counselor of Embassy
for Political Affairs

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